

The background is a gradient from deep red at the top to dark blue at the bottom, speckled with white dots. On the left side, there are several concentric circles and a radial scale with numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Some of the circles have arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & PROSPERITY TASK FORCE PUBLIC HEARING

OCTOBER 9, 2018

TASK FORCE PURPOSE

- Purpose - Identify and study policies, programs, and potential legislation to facilitate economic growth and increase economic opportunities for individuals, businesses, and organizations in Howard County and to make recommendations to the Howard County Council and Howard County Executive.
- Actions –
 - Review and analyze policies, programs, laws, and incentives related to expanding and supporting employment and economic growth in Howard County;
 - Recommend changes to those policies, programs, laws, and incentives; and
 - Recommend any new policies, programs, and incentives to further foster employment and economic growth in Howard County.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Leonardo V. McClarty and Phyllis B. Madachy, Co-Chairpersons
- Ali M. Abidi, Marianne H. Brackney , Anne I. Brinker, Jamie Brown, Paul K. Casey, Ana M. Cisneros ,
- Kimberly A. Flowers, Maddy Halbach, Jason S. Jannati, Elizabeth M. Noble, Jaykant D. Parekh, Gopi Suri, and Lawrence F. Twele

SUB COMMITTEE OVERVIEW AND MEMBERS

- Resolution calls for subcommittees to: create subcommittees to address these and other topics:
 - workforce development, including employment processes and programs, compensation, and job access; education, including technology and vocational training, mentoring, and apprenticeships;
 - economic development, including attracting new and relocating businesses through incentives, land-use, regulatory simplification, capital access, and public-private partnerships; workforce success elements, including individual health, personal finance, and legal matters;
 - housing including, affordability and workforce housing; and
 - transportation, including but not limited to transit and ride-sharing;
- Three Subcommittees have been created:
 - Economic Development – Ali Abidi and Peter O’Neil – Co-Chairpersons
 - Education / Workforce Development – Maddy Halbach and Betty Noble - Co-Chairpersons
 - Housing / Community Development – Kim Flowers and Paul Casey - Co-Chairpersons

PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED

To date, the committee has heard from a hosts of organizations and individuals. They are listed below.

- Howard County Housing Commission
- ARC of Howard County
- Office of Transportation, Howard County Government
- Howard County Autism Society
- Howard County Arts Council
- Columbia Housing Center
- Division of Research, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
- Department of Recreation & Parks
- Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development
- The Baltimore Metropolitan Council.
- Department of Community Resources and Services
- Howard County Spending Affordability Committee
- Power52
- Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance
- Department of Recreation and Parks
- The Foreign-Born Information Referral Network (FIRN)
- Office of Veterans and Military Families, Howard Co Department of Community Resources and Services
- Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
- Making Change of Howard County

Presentations and materials may be found by visiting:
<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForceDocs>

MEETINGS HELD

- The EOPT has been meeting monthly since October 2017
- Task force subcommittees meet intermittently, typically monthly or bi-monthly

Taskforce Meeting Agenda's and Minutes may be found by visiting: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForce>

EOPT WORK TIMELINE / SCHEDULE

- Per the resolution, the EOPT is to have its work completed before or by December 31, 2018 with recommendations to follow
- The EOPT will present approximately five recommendations to the County Council
- This hearing will aid members in data gathering and obtaining facts which will lead to comprehensive and inclusive decision making
- The Task Force will conclude its work by March 31, 2019

EMERGING THEMES AND TRENDS

All recommendations have the following two groups or populations in mind:

1. The Underemployed, ie. individuals that are in a lower position than their qualifications would support.
 - Thought is to increase their level of employment it will support their ability to increase equitable housing opportunities geographically which might be spread out throughout the county to create more diverse communities. This could enable them to purchase housing closer to transportation lines, which could lower the cost to travel to workforce hubs from these diverse communities.
2. A.L.I.C.E – As defined by United Way - Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed
 - ALICE is your child care worker, your parent on Social Security, the cashier at your supermarket, the gas attendant, the salesperson at your big box store, your waitress, a home health aide, an office clerk. ALICE cannot always pay the bills, has little or nothing in savings, and is forced to make tough choices such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent. One unexpected car repair or medical bill can push these financially strapped families over the edge.

EMERGING THEMES AND TRENDS

Recommending four core pillars:

- Housing & Community Development–
 - Development of an affordable housing master plan that covers all spectrums of housing – workforce, low income, and vulnerable populations
 - A new master plan for arts and culture and
 - Additional resources for immigrant services providers.
- Transportation (Mobility/Accessibility)
- Business & Workforce Development –
 - Local Small Business Needs / Procurement
 - Encourage Implementation of Columbia Gateway Business Park Masterplan
 - Apprenticeships and Soft-skills
 - Foster closer ties between employers and local educational institutions
- Affordable Child Care - Early Childhood Learning

PUBLIC COMMENT AND FEEDBACK

- Contact information for EOPT
 - <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions-Task-Forces-and-Special-Reports/EOP-Task-Force/EOP-Task-Force-Feedback-Form>